

# WATER SECTOR RESTRUCTURING IN SRI LANKA

By

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Supervised by

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## **CONTENTS**

### **Page**

<b>Declaration</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>ix</b>

### **Chapter - 01 INTRODUCTION**

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Present Situation of Water Resources in Global Context	4
1.2	Sri Lanka and Water	4
1.3	Justification of the study based on Sri Lankan Situation	6
1.4	Objectives	8
1.5	Methodology	9
1.5.1	Organization of the Study	9
1.5.2	Data Collection	10
1.6	Organization of the study	11
1.7	Limitation of the study	12



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### **Chapter – 02 LITERATURE SURVEY**

2.1	Historical Background of Water Sector in Sri Lanka	13
2.1.1	Early Sri Lankan Situation	13
2.1.2	Situation in Portuguese Period	13
2.1.3	Situation of Dutch Period	14
2.1.4	Situation in British Period	14
2.2	Water Sector Restructuring in other Countries	16
2.2.1	Water Sector Restructuring in Asian Countries	17
2.2.2	Models Used in Water Sector Reform	20
2.2.3	New Institutional Model in Indonesia	21
2.2.4	Investor – Own Water Companies	24
2.3.	Summary	25

## **Chapter 03 -ASSESSMENT OF WATER SECTOR RESTRUCTURING IN SRI LANKA**

3.0	Situation in the World	29
3.1	Situation in Sri Lanka	29
3.2	Water Users in Sri Lanka	30
3.2.1	Domestic	30
3.2.3	Electricity Board	30
3.2.4	Other Industries	31
3.3	Water Regulating Authorities	31
3.3.1	Objectives of Each Agency	32
3.3.2	Institutional Problems	32
3.4	Summary	33

## **Chapter 04 - DATA ANALYSIS**

4.1	Questionnaires	34
4.2	Interviews of the Selected People	34
4.3	Questions Forwarded during the Interviews	35
4.3.1	Interpretation of Results	35
4.4	Stakeholder Analysis	46
4.5	Proposed Model for Sri Lanka Situation	57
4.5.1	Description of the Major Sections of the Model	57
4.6	Summary	60

## **Chapter 05 - RECENT POLICY CHANGES INITIATED BY SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT**

5.1	Water Policy-1	64
	Water Policy-2	64
5.3	Challenges of the Water Sector Restructuring Process	65
5.3.1	Wrong Selection	65
5.3.2	Lack of Public Acceptance	65
5.3.3	Weak Education Process	66
5.3.4	Lack of Professional Input	66
5.3.5	Poor Concentration on Cultural Features	66
5.3.6	Non Concentration on Indigenous Knowledge	66
5.3.7	More Concentration on Water Selling	67
5.3.8	Low Representation	67
5.4	Summary	67

## **Chapter 06 - ASSESSMENT OF OBSTACLES AND CONSTRAINTS**

6.1	Proposal for overcome the obstacles	69
6.1.1	Government Intervention	69
6.1.2	Good Governance	69
6.1.3	Participative Approach	70
6.1.4	Addressing the Specific Problems Separately	71
6.1.5	Development of Human Resources	71
6.1.6	Development of Human Rights Framework	71
6.1.7	Strengthening of Trade Unions	72
6.1.8	Organizational Reform	72
6.1.9	Financial and Fiscal Incentives	73
6.1.10	Privatization of the Activities	74
6.2	SWOT Analysis for the Sri Lankan Water Sector	75
6.3	Summary	77

## **Chapter 07 - FINDINGS, POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

7.1	Findings	78
7.2	Policy Implications	79
7.2.1	Water Policy for Industries	79
7.2.1.1	Agricultural Sector	79
7.2.1.2	Non Agricultural Sector	80
7.2.2	Non Agricultural Sector	80
7.2.2.1	Introduction	80
7.2.2.2	Duties and Responsibilities of the Government	80
7.2.2.3	Duties and Responsibilities	80
7.2.2.4	Water Rights and Allocation	81
7.2.2.5	Research and Development	81
7.2.2.6	Institutional Structures	81
7.2.2.7	Data and Information Management System	81
7.2.2.8	Water Resource Demand Management	81
7.2.2.9	River Basin Planning and Management	82
7.2.2.10	Drought Management and Flood Control	82
7.2.2.11	Water Quality Management	82
7.2.2.12	Water Sector Financing	82
7.3	Water Policy for Industrial Sector	83
7.3.1	Duties and Responsibilities	83
7.4	Conclusion	87
7.5	Agenda for the Future Studies	88
Appendix -1	Issues of Water Aquifers and its Management Strategies	90
Appendix - 2	Results of Interview with Different Groups	92
References		97

## Declaration

I certify that this report does not incorporate without acknowledgment any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any University and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by any other person except where due reference is made in the text.

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Signature of the Candidate

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organization
WB	-	World Bank
Sq km	-	Square kilometers
Cum	-	Cubic meters
mm	-	Millimeters
USSR	-	Union of Soviet Socialist Republic
US	-	United States of America
BOI	-	Board of Investment
CEB	-	Ceylon Electricity Board
ITI	-	Industrial Technology Institute
NARA	-	National Aquatic Resources Research Development Agency
NBRO	-	National Building Research Organization
NERD	-	National Engineering Research & Development Centre
NSF	-	National Science Foundation
NWS&DB	-	National Water Supply and Drainage Boards
SLPA	-	Sri Lanka Ports Authority
SLS	-	Sri Lanka Standards
UDA	-	Urban Development Authority
R&D	-	Research and Development
ie	-	id est (that is)
ar el	-	and others
WG	-	Working Group
etc	-	et ceteri or cetera (and the others)
%	-	Percentage

## List of Tables

	<u>Page No.</u>
Table 2.1 Countries of each of Study Region	16
Table 2.2 River basin management details	21
Table 2.3 Water resources management task details	22
Table 2.4 Institutions and responsibilities	23
Table A1-1 Issues of water aquifer and its management strategy	90
Table A2-1 Result of interview with civil engineers	92
Table A2-2 Result of interview with mechanical engineers	92
Table A2-3 Result of interview with electrical engineers	93
Table A2-4 Result of interview with architects	93
Table A2-5 Result of interview with farmers	93
Table A2-6 Result of interview with teachers	94
Table A2-7 Result of interview with clerical staff	94
Table A2-8 Result of interview with ordinary people	94
Table A2-9 Result of interview with military personnel	95
Table A2-10 Result of interview with university students	95
Table A2-11 Result of interview with technical college students	95
Table A2-12 Result of interview with political party members	96
Table A2-13 Summary of Interview with Different Groups	96

## List of Figures

	<u>Page No.</u>
Figure 1.2	Flow chart of study 9
Figure 4-1	Result of interview with civil engineers 35
Figure 4-2	Result of interview with mechanical engineers 36
Figure 4-3	Result of interview with electrical engineers 37
Figure 4-4	Result of interview with architects 38
Figure 4-5	Result of interview with farmers 38
Figure 4-6	Result of interview with teachers 39
Figure 4-7	Result of interview with clerical staff 40
Figure 4-8	Result of interview with ordinary people 40
Figure 4-9	Result of interview with military personnel 41
Figure 4-10	Result of interview with university students 42
Figure 4-11	Result of interview with technical college students 43
Figure 4-12	Result of interview with political party members 44
Figure 4-13	Summary of interviews with different Groups 45
Figure 4-14	Stakeholder Integration 49
Figure 4.15	Proposed Model for Sri Lankan Water Sector Restructuring Process 59



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## **Executive Summary**

Sri Lanka has more than 2500 years of experience in water resources management in the context of indigenous knowledge under the rule of Kings. Water resources control is one of the supreme responsibilities of the political institution as it was the major driving force of the main income of the majority of the people. Due to the political instability in the country that system had collapsed.

As a result of the rapid population growth, deforestation, agricultural activities industrialization, urbanization has increased rapidly and these activities has been create a big impact on acceleration of water resources deterioration process since the last century. This matter was not addressed by most countries due to the short sighted political view. Apart from the local issues, some global issues like global warming and change in rain fall pattern has caused to rapidly reduce the usable water resources.

At present there are many uses of water in the country, and none of the organizations very clearly know their domain of operation. The Statutory Acts which established these organizations do not clearly defined the duties and responsibilities in relation to the other organization which use the same resources. Non availability of the national policy frame work in Sri Lanka is a common feature in almost all sectors.

There is a huge pressure coming from the international funding agencies to the government of Sri Lanka to restructure the water sector. Due to this pressure, the government of Sri Lanka in the year 2000 started preparation of a document for water sector restructuring. Within a very short period the government changed.

Due to the large number of stakeholders in the water sector, majority of the countries could not developed with a solution or model which would meet all the stakeholders' wants and needs. On many occasions these developing countries addressed only one issue and did not look the problems as a whole due to many social, political and economic factors.